9th November 1966] [Sri P. Kakkan]

been made to supply short-term seeds for Thaladi in view of the delay in Kuruvai transplantation and a total quantity of 700 tonnes of short term seed has been distributed in Thanjavur district.

There is no need to supply seeds or fertilisers at subsidised rates considering that the overall damage is proportionally very small.

Regarding damage to houses and crops reported in a few villages in Kumbakonam division, they are all between Manniar and Palavar. There were three breaches in the Palavar and crops got submerged. The total area in these villages was 1,700 acres of Kuruvai and 3,500 acres of Samba. Out of 1,700 acres under Kuruvai, 850 acres were under ADT.27 and the balance was under other departmental strains. There has been a reduction in yield of about 10 per cent in the case of ADT 27. In the case of other strains there has been about 50 per cent reduction in yield. It may be pointed out that in ADT 27 crop general reduction in yield over the area affected by heavy rains is only about 5 per cent whereas it is about 50 per cent in other strains. There was no serious damage due to sand casting. As for Samba, total replanting was necessary in about 20 acres, partial replanting in 50 acres and gap filling in some more areas. The large bulk of the crop was, therefore, undamaged.

Samba seedlings were made available for gap filling, and replanting in the areas affected. The nursery for Thaladi faced the maximum damage about 40 acres having been completely lost. One and a half tonnes of short term paddy seeds have already been distributed and there is sufficient stock on hand. There is no need to subsidise the distribution of seeds and fertilisers. Application of a dose of fertiliser will improve the Samba crop in general now and there is also an adequate stock of fertilisers now.

In this connection, it may be stated that ADT 27 paddy raised this year in about 2 lakhs of acres of which 1 lakh of acres have been harvested already, has yielded an average 3,700 lb. per acre.

(3) DESTRUCTION OF POTATO CROPS IN THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT DUE TO HEAVY RAINS.

SRI T. KARCHA GOWDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the serious situation prevailing in the Nilgiris district owing to the heavy and continuous rains for the past two months, causing complete destruction of potato crops cultivated in 14,000 acres by the pest called 'Late Blight' and the consequent necessity to afford relief measures to the potato growers in that district.

[9th November 1966

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Nilgiris district experienced heavy rains in the months of September and October, the amount of rainfall received being 10·25 inches and 12.74 inches respectively. Heavy downpour was experienced from the second week of September to the third week of October 1966. The first crop of potato which is grown in an area of about 12,000 acres was not affected by this rain as the harvest was over by the time the rain intensified. The area under second crop potato is about 7,000 acres and this was sown in three stages—the first in June, the second in August-September and the third in October The early crop sown in June is ready for harvest and there has been no incidence of "Late Blight" in this crop. There has been a little delay in the harvest of this crop due to the wet weather, but this is not expected to affect the yield of the crop. The crop which was sown in August–September (covering about 5,000 acres) was caught in the heavy rain and due to the weather conditions being favourable for the "Late Blight" it was affected by 'Late Blight'. Necessary plant protection measures were taken to control the 'Late Blight' disease and plant protection chemicals were issued at 50 per cent cost as usual. So far 104 tons of chemicals (Dithaue and Copper compounds) have been sold, the subsidy on which alone works out to Rs. 2.5 lakhs. There is sufficient stock of Dithaue and copper compounds in the depots in the district and there is no difficulty about supplying the required chemicals. Spraying operations have been undertaken with the power operated sprayers held in stock in the Panchayats and the Panchayat Unions and by the Crop and Plant Protection Officer, Coimbatore. Ninety-five power units have also been sold to ryots during the year by the department. It is expected that the yield from these 5,000 acres of crop will be affected to the extent of about 50 per cent. The crop sown in the month of October is in different stages of germination and initial infection of 'Late Blight' has been noticed. Prompt spraying measures are being taken.

Regarding the relief measures proposed by the Member, I wish to state as follows :—

1. *Remission of land revenue.*—This can be decided only after assessing the full effect of the damage of the crops which can be known only after the harvest of the standing crop.

2. *Postponement of loans.*—The question of permitting the postponement of the repayment of the loans or granting conversion of short term loans provided by the Co-operatives into medium term loans will have to be considered after the extent of the damage is correctly assessed. The Central Bank has granted conversion of short term loans into medium term loans in respect of over dues accumulated from the year 1961–62 to 1964–65 to a total extent of Rs. 17.35 lakhs.

9th November 1966] [Sri P. Kakkan]

3. *The supply of seed potatoes.*—The irrigated crop will be following the standing crop and will be usually sown in the months of January–February. Its seed requirements have to be met from the present standing crop. As the area under cultivation of irrigated crop will be only 3,000 acres the seed requirements can be easily met. There is no necessity to import any seed material from outside for this crop.

4. *Supply of Ammonium sulphate.*—There is no immediate need for supply of Ammonium sulphate as the second crop sowings are already over. For the irrigated crop to be raised in January-February in about 3,000 acres, fertiliser will have to be moved by the end of December. Already 150 tons of Ammonium sulphate have been allotted to the Nilgiris Potato Growers' Co-operative Marketing Society and further allotment will also be made shortly out of the allocation of fertilisers for the third quarter.

5. *Supply of power sprayers at subsidised rates.*—There appears to be no need to subsidise any power equipment. The Department has distributed 95 power sprayers to riots and it is estimated that about 225 power units have been sold by private agencies. An adequate number is also stocked by the different Panchayat Unions. In addition in times of large scale infection, the power sprayers in the Crop and Plant Protection Officer's pool are also used.

(4) PEST ATTACK AND FAILURE OF CROPS IN CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.

SRI A. RAGHAVA REDDI : Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the pest attack and failure of crops in Pennalurpet and Gummidipundi sub-taluks of Chingleput district due to failure to supply fertilisers in time for the samba crop.

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, it may be stated that there has been no failure of samba crops raised this season and the condition of the standing samba crops is generally fair. Samba crop has been raised over an extent of 15,279 acres in Gummidipoondi sub-taluk and over an extent of 24,670 acre in Pennalurpet sub-taluk. Regarding the crops being affected by pest, no abnormal situation has developed so far. The usual jassids and stem borer which appear in this season are only present. Sufficient stocks of pesticides and fungicides are available on hand in the agricultural depots to meet the demands of Gummidipoondi and Pennalurpet sub-taluks and the stocks are being supplied as and when they are needed. There has been no complaint from the farmers regarding the distribution of pesticides.

The Member has brought to notice the inadequacy of the fertilisers supplied. Owing to the overall difficult stock and supply position, it has not been possible to supply the full needs